(ii) To increase exploration efforts through the New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP). Under the first and second rounds of NELP, Production Sharing Contracts (PSCS) have been signed for 47 blocks. Offer of 27 exploration blocks under NELP-III has also been announced in March, 2002 with bid closing date as 28.8.2002.

(iii) To explore in new areas, especially in deep water and difficult frontier areas, as also explore in the deeper layers of the producing fields.

(iv) To develop faster the newly discovered fields and to step up the use of new technologies for seismic surveys, work over, stimulation operations, drilling of wells etc. in producing areas.

(v) To acquire acreages abroad.

(b) The actual production of crude oil in April, 2002 was about 1.25% higher than the target set for the said month.

(c)The production of crude oil in April, 2002 was about 2.70% higher than the production in the corresponding period in 2001.

(d)The main reasons for the increase in crude oil production during April, 2002 *vis-a-vis* April, 2001 are:—

(i) Results from some of the Improve Oil Recovery (IOR) schemes being implemented by Oil & Natural Gas Corporation.

(ii) Increased production from Panna, Rawa and PY-3 fields operated by Private/joint venture companies.

Increase in production has no significant impact in the matter of self-sufficiency.

IOC's Pipeline Projects

1454. SHRISURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) has dropped 15 pipeline projects;

(b) if so, the details of each project and the reasons for their non-implementation; and

(c) in what manner this move will affecMhe transportation of products by IOC?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHREl SANTOSH GANGWAft): *(A)* and (b) The viability?of, product pipeline proposals depend orrthe output. The supply/ demand scenario and growth pattern .of petroleum products in the country have undergone considerable dhan§e. In vtew of this, the following product pipeline projects *are* being revlewed'by thelrtdian Oil Corporation fortheir economic vratility:—

(i) Expansion-of Bong&kjac-n-Siliguri section of Guwahati-Siliguri Pipeline and its extenVfOtf to Barauni.

(ii) Erxparfordfl of Hafdia-Mourlgrarh section of Haldia-Mourigram. ptpefihk

(iii) Expansion of Mathura-Delhi section of Mathura-Jalandhar pipeline to 5.3 million metric tonnes per annum (MMTPA).

(iv) Augmentation of Panipat-Bhatinda section of Kandia-Bhatinda Pipeline to 2.5 MMTPA.

(v) tap *o11* at Kandia-Bhatinda Pipeline Beawar.

(vi) Extension of Mathura-Jalandhar Pipeline to Pathankot and Udhampuf.

(vii) Branch line from Koyali-Ahmedabad Pipeline to Ratlam and Indore.

(viir) Ma'thura-Bharatpur Pipeline.

(ix) Vasco-Belgam-Miraj pipeline with branch line to Hubli.

(x) Augmentation of Patna-Mugalsarai section of Barauni-Kanpur Pipeline.

(xi) Branch line to Udaipur from Kandia-Bhatinda pipeline.

(xii) Branch line from Haldia Barauhi pipeline at Mecheda to Jamshedpur and its extension to Bokaro.

(xiii) Branch line from Kandia-Bhatinda pipeline at Kot to Chittorgarh and Kota.

(xiv) Branch line from Barauni-Kanpur pipeline at Allahabad to Satha.

(xv) Extension of Sonepat-Meerut branch line to Bareilly w'a Moradabad.

(c) Review of aforesaid projects will not affect the transportation of petroleum products as they were only at conceptual stage.

Sale of LPG to customers by ONGC

1455. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether ONGC has sought permission from Government to sell LPG directly to the bulk customers;

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto;

(c) whether the sale of LPG to customers directly by ONGC will have any impact on other oil companies; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR) (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) Government have not taken any final view on the proposal. The likely impact on Oil Companies on account of direct sale by ONGC to bulk consumers would be kept in view before any decision is taken.

Shortage of CNG in Delhi

1456. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) by when the shortage of CNG in Delhi will be over;

(b) the details of the measures taken by the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas so far in this regard;

(c) whether it is a fact that there is no coordination between allocation of CNG and the dispensing machinery of CNG; and

(d) by when all this mismatch be settled in the interest of the citizens of Delhi?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR) (a) to (d) In order to improve the availability of Compressed Natural Gas(CNG) for transport